

In the Drawings

“Replacement Sheets” were provided with the Preliminary Amendment filed on November 2, 2004 to satisfy the Notice to File Missing Parts mailed by the USPTO on September 2, 2004.

“Annotated Sheets Showing Changes” are attached herewith and include marked-up versions of Figs. 1-13, 18-33, and 35-37. In the drawings:

Figs. 3-4 were amended to show internal components of the device in phantom lines.

Fig. 6 was amended to add compression spring 262.

Fig. 9 was amended to delete reference character 268.

Fig. 12 was amended to modify the shape of pins 280 to match those shown in Fig. 11J.

Figs. 18-25 were amended to be renumbered as Figs. 17-24, respectively.

Fig. 26 was amended to add phantom lines to better illustrate item 412 and to be renumbered as Fig. 25.

Figs. 27-29 were amended to be renumbered as Figs. 25-28, respectively.

Fig. 30 was amended to add suture wire 416 to the illustration and to be renumbered as Fig. 29.

Fig. 31 was amended to be renumbered as Fig. 30.

Fig. 32 was amended to add suture wire to the illustration and to be renumbered as Fig. 31.

Fig. 33 was amended remove the word “tissue” from the illustration, to add projections 272 and 274, and to be renumbered as Fig. 32.

Fig. 35 was amended to be renumbered as Fig. 33.

Figs. 36 and 37 were amended to replace reference character 236 with reference character 237A, and to be renumbered as Figs. 34-35, respectively.

Figs. 1-13, 18-33, and 35-37 were amended to included additional reference characters.

Each of the above changes made to the drawings are supported by the specification and other figures. No new matter is added.

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 12, 21 and 23-37 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-11 and 13-21 are amended and new claim 38 is added. As a result, claims 1-11, 13-20, and 38 are pending for examination with claims 1, 21 and 38 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX